

**ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT  
And  
MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE**

**Description of current proposal:** Replace the existing Mercer/Valley couplet with a widened two-way Mercer Street and a narrowed two-way Valley Street. The widened Mercer Street would have three lanes in each direction, with widened sidewalks, on-street parking, and a landscaped median with left-turn lanes. The street would be widened primarily to the north. Mercer would become the primary east-west route through the South Lake Union area. Valley Street would be narrowed to a two-lane street with sidewalks, bicycle lanes and on-street parking and provide local access to businesses and South Lake Union Park. The project would also make improvements to the north-south streets within the project area, including Fairview, Boren, Terry, Westlake and Ninth Avenues. Street crossings throughout the project area would be improved.

**Proponent and agency adopting document:** Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)

**Location of current proposal:** The project is located in the South Lake Union neighborhood of Seattle, King County, on Mercer Street and Valley Street from I-5 Mercer Street ramps (at Fairview Avenue N) to Dexter Avenue North.

**Title of document being adopted:** Mercer Corridor Improvements Project Environmental Assessment (FHWA, WSDOT and SDOT)

**Date adopted document was prepared:** December 30, 2008

**Description of document (or portion) being adopted:** The Mercer Corridor Improvements Project Environmental Assessment (EA), prepared by the Federal Highway Administration, Washington State Department of Transportation and the City of Seattle, evaluated the proposal for its potential effects on the natural and built environments. The EA includes numerous technical appendices providing additional detail on impacts of the proposal and mitigation measures. This document was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**The documents are available to be read at:** the City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development Public Resource Center, 700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000, Seattle, Washington 98124, open 7:30 am – 5:30 pm Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 10:30 am – 5:30 pm Tuesday & Thursday; the Central Branch of the Seattle Public Library, 1000 Fourth Ave, Seattle; and the Queen Anne Branch Library, 400 W Garfield St, Seattle. The documents and technical appendices are also available on-line at the project's website:  
[http://www.seattle.gov/Transportation/ppmp\\_mercer.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/Transportation/ppmp_mercer.htm).

SDOT has identified and adopted this document as being appropriate for this proposal after independent review. The document meets our environmental review needs for the current proposal and will accompany the proposal to the decision maker. In addition, a SEPA checklist and a technical memorandum analyzing Greenhouse Gas Emissions have been prepared and are available upon request or at the locations listed above.

SDOT, as lead agency for this proposal, has determined, based on the latest project design and the included mitigation, that the proposal does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. The previously issued Declaration of Significance, issued March 4, 2004, is hereby withdrawn, pursuant to WAC 197-11-360 (4). An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2) (c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist, the NEPA Environmental Assessment and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This Mitigated DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2) and Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) 25.05.340(B) and 25.05.350; the lead agency will not act on the proposal for 15 days from

issuing date of this Mitigated DNS. Comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m., February 13, 2009.

**Issue Date:** January 29, 2009.

**SEPA Responsible official:** Grace Crunican

**Position/title:** Director, Seattle Department of Transportation **Phone:** 206-684-5000

**Address:** P.O. Box 34996, Seattle, WA 98124-4996

**Date:** 1.23.09 **Signature:** Grace Crunican

**Agency Contact:** Angela Brady, Project Manager **Phone:** 206-684-3115

Any interested person may appeal this DNS by submitting a Notice of Appeal and a \$50.00 filing fee to the Office of the Hearing Examiner located at 700 Fifth Ave, Suite 4000, Seattle; mailing address: P.O. Box 94729, Seattle, WA 98124-4729; telephone: (206) 684-0521. The appeal must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m., February 19, 2009. The appellant should be prepared to make specific factual objections. See SMC 25.05.680 B(1)(a)(2) for SEPA appeal procedures.